

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00372 131715Z

10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 075653

R 131530Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3846

S E C R E T ALGIERS 0372

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:89\$

5-& : PFOR, SS, AG MOR, MR, SP

SUBJECT: SAHARA: U.S. POSITION

1. HAVE NOTED IN SEVERAL RECENT MESSAGES, SUCH AS STATE'S 030981 AND 031272, STATEMENTS THAT WE HAVE NOT TAKEN POSITION ON SUBSTANCE OF SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE BUT SUPPORT TRIPARTITE ACCORD AND UNGA RESOLUTION WHICH ENDORSED IT. RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THAT THESE REMARKS INTERNALLY INCONSISTENT.

2. IN FIRST PLACE, TRIPARTITE ACCORD DEALS DIRECTLY WITH SUBSTANCE OF ISSUE AND SETTLES IT IN FAVOR MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA. BY SUPPORTING IT WE ARE TAKING SIDES.

3. THERE IS, FURTHERMORE, CONTRADICTION BETWEEN TRIPARTITE ACCORD AND SENEGALESE-TUNISIAN RESOLUTION WHICH ENDORSED IT. RESOLUTION CONFIRMS INALIENABLE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. IT GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD AT TIME, HOWEVER, THAT WHATEVER RESOLUTION SAID THERE WOULD BE NO MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION WITH SAHARAN PEOPLE UNDER TRIPARTITE ACCORD. THERE HAVE NOT IN FACT BEEN ANY, UNLESS WE ACCEPT SOMEWHAT DUBIOUS MOROCCQON CLAIM TO HAVE CONSULTED WITH JEMAA, A BODY WHOSE REPRESENTATIVE STATUS UNCERTAIN TO SAY THE LEAST. IN OTHER WORDS, TUNISIAN-SENEGALESE RESOLUTION WAS WINDOW DRESSING DESIGNED TO JUSTIFY TAKEOVER, AND WE KNEW IT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ALGIER 00372 131715Z

4. IF, IN SPITE OF ALL THIS, USG CONSIDERS ITSELF TO BE

NEUTRAL ON SUBSTANCE, WE SHOULD CONSIDER HOW WE CAN CONVINCE
ALGERIANS OF THIS, BECAUSE I HAVE FRANKLY BEEN OPERATING ON
ASSUMPTION WE HAD CHOSEN MOROCCAN SIDE OF ISSUE FOR GOOD AND
SUFFICIENT REASONS OF OUR OWN. MAKING CONVINCING CASE WE ARE
NEUTRAL WILL BE DIFFICULT, PARTICULARLY AS GOA LEARNS OF
\$182 MILLION DOLLAR ARMS SALES REQUEST FOR MOROCCO.(GATHER THIS
IN ADDITION TO TWO BRIGADE PACKAGE. OUR MILITARY COMMITMENT
TO MORROCO CONSIDERABLY MORE OMINOUS THAN I HAD SUSPECTED.)
AM NEVERTHELESS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW DEPARTMENT
WISHES ME TO RESPOND TO ALGERIAN CONCERNS. I HAVE SO FAR
TAKEN LINE THAT IT WAS THEIR OWN FAULT FOR THEIR PRO-SOVIET
ATTITUDE ON ANGOLA AND OTHER DISFAVORS TO US, BUT WOULD BE
GLAD TO CORRECT THIS LINE IF GIVEN SOME AMMUNITION.PARKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ALGIER00372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ADJUSTED PER ALGIERS 481
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760056-1025
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760253/aaaabtxn.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <07 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA: U.S. POSITION
TAGS: PFOR, SS, AG, MO, MR, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006